

Exhibit No. 9Date 4-1-09Bill No. HB 645

April 1, 2009

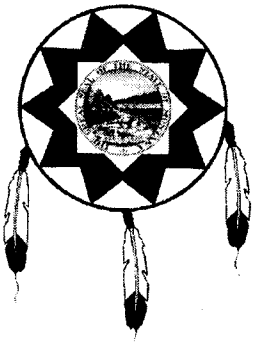
Dear Senate Finance & Claims Committee:

On behalf of the Indian Nations and those who we serve in the Big Sky Country, the undersigned Tribal Chairpersons and Indian Legislators respectfully request American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for our shovel ready projects. In this, the current economy of our nation, our state, and our tribes, the people of Big Sky Country are facing high unemployment rates, job losses, and budget constraints. We are looking forward to working in cooperation with the State of Montana in providing healthy and sustainable services, jobs, and education programs for our Montana citizens.

The President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) into law on February 9, 2009 and HB 645 is currently under consideration by the Montana Legislature and will appropriate three million to the tribal nations of Montana. As you know, we have one of the greatest needs for infrastructure investment due to the high rates of poverty and isolation of our reservation communities. As such, we request your support for funding our shovel ready projects which will immediately begin.

According to the latest Census figures of Montana, our American Indian population is estimated to be 7 percent of Montana's total population. The unemployment rates on reservations are as high as 50 percent. The ARRA funds are approximately \$250 million statewide and we feel that the following tribal projects meet the requirements of ARRA to be funded. Here is the list of prioritized tribal projects from each tribal nation:

- **CSKT**
- Greenhouse Expansion: \$750,000 this project creates 2 full time positions and 20-25 seasonal planting employment.
- **Total: \$ 750,000**
- **Ft. Peck**
- Ft. Kipp Irrigation Project: \$1 million this project creates 42 jobs.
- **Total: \$ 1 million**
- **Ft. Belknap—**
- Housing/Bathroom Renovation: \$850,000 this projects
- **Total: \$ 850,000**
- **Blackfeet Tribe**
- East Glacier Water Line Project: \$ 1 million
- Browning Treatment Facility Infrastructure: \$ 1 million



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- **Blackfeet Tribe**
- East Glacier Water Line Project: \$ 1 million
- Browning Treatment Facility Infrastructure: \$ 1 million
- **Total: \$ 2 million**

- **Northern Cheyenne**
- Lame Deer and Muddy Cluster Water System Improvement Project: \$ 750,000.
- **Total: \$ 750,000**

- **Crow—**
- Lodge Grass Water (Phase 1): \$ 805,300 with 20 jobs created.
- Lodge Grass Sewer (Phase 1): Lagoon Upgrade: \$ 861,000
- **Total: \$ 1.7 million**

- **Chippewa Cree Tribe**
- Parker School Water Storage Tank: \$1.2 million—40 jobs created.
- **Total: \$ 1.2 million**

- **Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians**
- Morony Dam Building Remolding: \$200 K
- Enhancing Tribe's Federal Recognition to receive land base.
- Senator Joe Tropila elected by Little Shell Tribe for their representation.
- **Total: \$ 200,000**

- **Tribes Total: \$ 8.45 million**

The State of Montana as well as the Tribal Nations well benefit from the resubmitted funding requests. The Montana Tribal Leaders and Montana American Indian Caucus are in full support of these fully funded projects. We look forward to a continued government to government relationship.

Sincerely Yours,